

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-05 DODE-00 FEA-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 PM-04 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7326

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

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UNCLAS PARIS 02816

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:TECH, FR

SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION WITHIN THE FRENCH ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY (CEA)

1) ON JAN 19, 1976, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CEA ANNOUNCED PARTIAL REORGANIZATION WITHIN THE CEA TO BE EFFECTIVE THAT DATE, WHICH WOULD LEAVE THE CEA ESSENTIALLY A GOVT HOLDING COMPANY. THE ADMINISTRATOR, ANDRE GIRAUD, NOTED IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE (JAN 10) THAT THE CHANGES REFLECTED THE INCREASED INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES OF THE CEA.

2) AS OF JAN 19, 1976, THERE EXISTS THE COMPAGNIE GENERALE DES MATIERES NUCLEAIRES (COGEMA), A 100 PERCENT OWNED CEA SUBSIDIARY, WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS AND OPERATIONS OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE. THIS NEW COMPANY, WITH ABOUT 8,000 PERSONS EMPLOYED, WILL HAVE AS ITS PRESIDENT MR. ANDRE GIRAUD AND WILL PROGRESSIVELY RAISE ITS CAPITALIZATION TO 3 BILLION FRANCS (APPROX \$660 MILLION). COGEMA
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WILL INCLUDE ALL FRENCH ACTIVITIES CONCERNED WITH THE

EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF URANIUM RESOURCES, TREATMENT OF THE ORES, THE ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM AND THE EXTRACTION OF PLUTONIUM FROM THE IRRADIATED FUEL ELEMENTS. THE ONE SEGMENT OF THE FUEL CYCLE NOT INCLUDED IN COGEMA IS THE FABRICATION OF FUEL ELEMENTS, WHICH IS HANDLED BY THE FRENCH - BELGIAN COMPANY FBFC, WHICH IS OWNED 30 PERCENT BY PUK, 37 PERCENT BY WESTINGHOUSE, 24 PERCENT BY A BELGIAN SOCIETY, MMN; AND 5 PERCENT BY CREUSOT-LOIRE.

3) THIS REORGANIZATION WILL NOTICEABLY AFFECT THE ORGANIZATION CHART OF CEA BUT NOT THE EFFECT OF ITS OPERATIONS. HENCEFORTH, THE CEA HEADQUARTERS WILL INCLUDE A STAFF OF TEN PEOPLE WHICH INCLUDES THE ADMINISTRATOR, AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, BOTH OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THIS STAFF WILL MANAGE THE THREE MAIN SUBGROUPS: A) THE DIVISION OF MILITARY APPLICATIONS CONSISTING OF 6,750 STAFF MEMBERS; B) THE DIRECTION FOR CIVILIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, WHICH INCLUDES THE INSTITUTE FOR FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH CONSISTING OF 1,800 PEOPLE, AND THE FUTURE INSTITUTE FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY AND PROTECTION, WHICH WILL INCLUDE 1,000 PEOPLE AND SIX SEPARATE UNITS CONCERNED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF REACTORS, STUDIES OF CHEMISTRY, METALLURGY, ELECTRONICS, RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS AND OTHER TECHNOLOGIES; (C) THE THIRD GROUP WILL BE THE NEWLY CREATED COGEMA, TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER MINOR SUBSIDIARIES.

4) THIS REORGANIZATION SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE NORMAL OPERATIONS OF CEA OR ITS SUBSIDIARIES. THIS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS LARGELY A "PAPER CHANGE" WHICH GIVES THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CEA THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE MORE RESPONSIBILITY UPON THE DIRECTORS OF THE SUBORDINATE FIRMS AND TO VIEW THEIR PERFORMANCE IN TERMS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH PROFIT CENTERS.
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Message Attributes

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